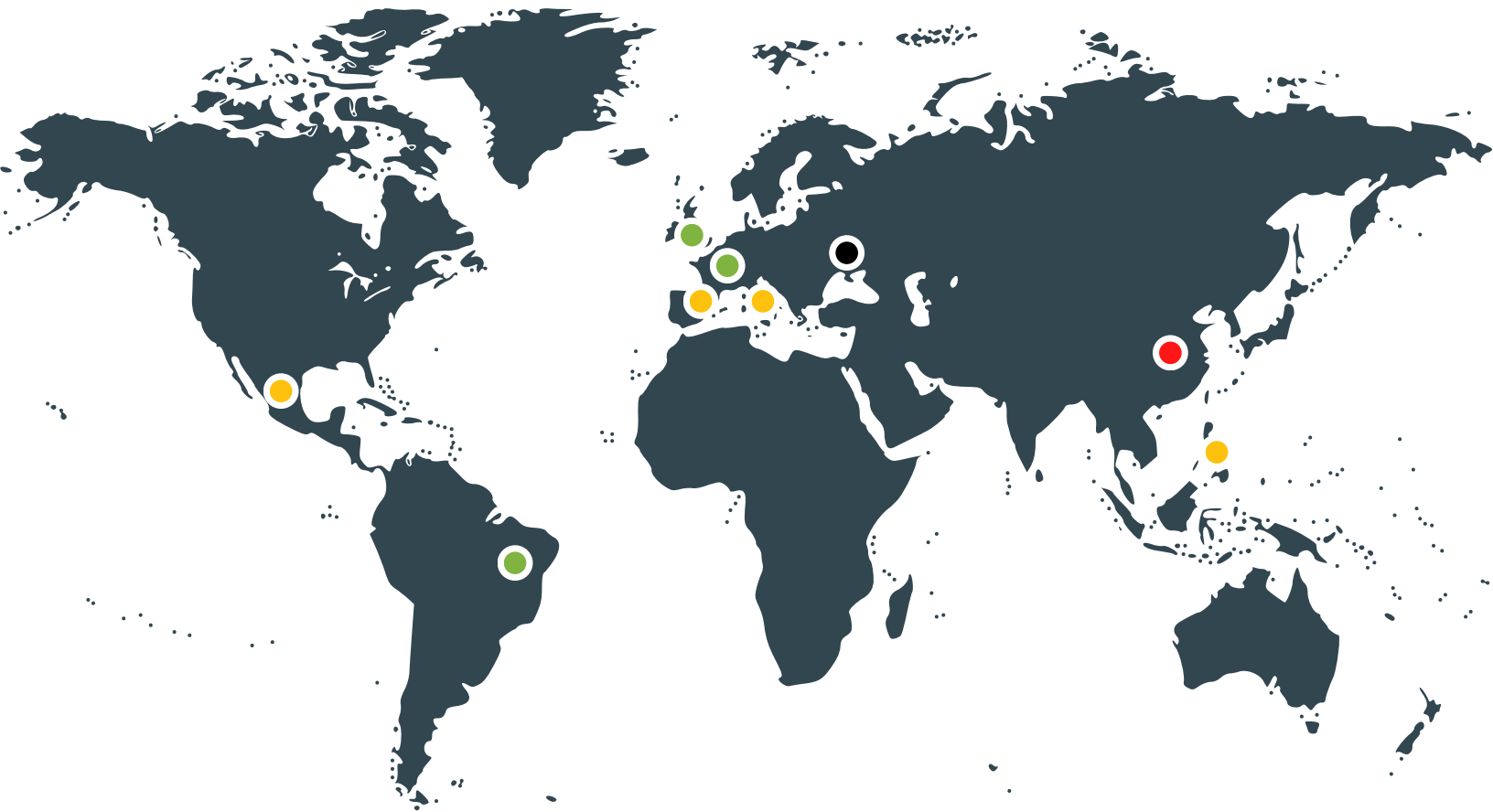


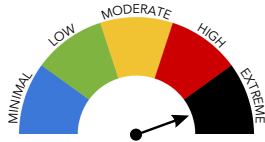
WORLDWIDE HOTSPOTS

June 2023



Concentric identified several hotspots prone to travel risks in June 2023, including natural disaster warnings in the Philippines and Mexico, protests in London and Italy, and political tensions affecting China and Brazil. We also urge travelers to remain wary of crime in popular Mexican vacation destinations

UKRAINE



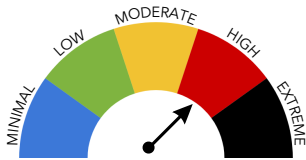
The overall threat to travelers in Ukraine is **EXTREME** and **HIGH** in Kyiv.

The security situation in Ukraine remains unstable and may deteriorate without warning. In recent weeks there has been an [increase](#) in missile strikes by the Russian government against Kyiv and other cities. Authorities also [warned](#) against a threat of Russian drones during the most recent air raid on May 25. Ukraine is [poised](#) to launch its counteroffensive within weeks as it [secures](#) military aid and training from allied countries. The Department of State (DoS) [received](#) reports of Russian forces targeting U.S. citizens to interrogate, harass, or detain them.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local and international news for updates on the developing security situation, and other travel disruptions.
- Travelers should exercise caution and remain vigilant of their surroundings. Although Kyiv is still a vibrant city it is important to remain alert and vigilant at all times. (DoS warns travelers against ongoing war conflict and civil unrest.
- Travelers should be familiar with emergency response and air raid protocol and know where to locate near-by bomb shelter locations.
- Law enforcement and emergency personnel speak limited English and translators are not readily available.

CHINA



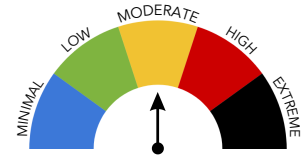
The threat to travelers in China is **HIGH**.

China and U.S. relations have worsened in recent months due to U.S. economic restrictions on China and China's growing relationship with Russia. Ukrainian allies [urged](#) China to withdraw support to Russia as China engaged in [joint](#) military drills with Russia and Iran earlier this year. President Biden is optimistic about "thawing" relations with China, however, he also [announced](#) additional arms packages for Ukraine during the G7 summit. Following these remarks China placed increased [restrictions](#) on the sale of microchips by U.S. technology company Micron under claims the product failed to pass China's cybersecurity review. Additionally, [border](#) tensions and human rights [violations persist](#) between China and many neighboring countries, including India, Tibet, and Xinjiang Uygur.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should stay clear of political demonstrations. China's surveillance system can easily track whereabouts.
- Concentric recommends travelers only bring burner devices and limit their amount of sensitive information. Pervasive and intrusive technical surveillance and monitoring is likely.
- Travelers should not post anything on social media platforms seen as critical of the government.
- Travelers should bring masks and monitor COVID-19 restrictions. Most governments removed entry restrictions from China as COVID-19 concerns ease.

SPAIN



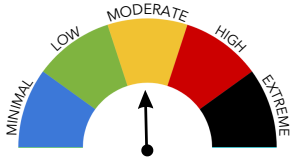
The overall threat to travelers in Spain is **MODERATE**.

Spain's regional [elections](#) for 12 provincial government and 8,000 local counselor positions are scheduled for May 28. Political demonstrations are common and may pose a risk leading up to and following elections. Separately, Spain heavily [advocates](#) banning end-to-end encryption in recently leaked documents of ongoing EU debates about privacy protection. Spain's football federation also made official statements about Spain's "racism problem" following soccer player Vinicius Junior's reporting of being targeted in multiple racially motivated [attacks](#).

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on local demonstrations, terrorist activity, and other travel disruptions.
- Travelers should exercise caution and remain vigilant of their surroundings. DoS warns travelers against terrorism and civil unrest. Threat actors aim to harm vulnerable or unprotected targets, high-profile public events, public spaces like schools, parks and transportation, institutions of worship, and tourist attractions.
- Crime is common, particularly in tourist areas. Travelers should be aware of criminal schemes including financial scams and practice safety precautions.

ITALY

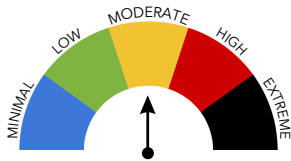


The overall threat to travelers in Italy is MODERATE.

Floods in Northern Italy [killed](#) 14 as of May 21, and displaced thousands of residents, leading [protests](#) by climate activists. Electrical services to affected areas are limited as clean-up operations are underway. In efforts to [increase](#) security of non-European companies. Italy has implemented additional regulations on Chinese surveillance equipment especially in “critical” buildings such as government institutions and airports

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding weather warnings and planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to stay away from these areas.
- Demonstrations are common, particularly related to political or economic issues. Anti-U.S. protests are possible.
- Terrorist attacks happen with no warning and terrorists target tourist areas and other populated areas such as public transportation and shopping centers.
- Economic crimes and theft are common. Tourists can be fined or detained for purchasing counterfeit goods.
- Tourists should be aware of local laws and regulations regarding fountains or monuments. Many have restrictions on eating, drinking, sitting, and alcohol consumption. Failure to abide by local rules can result in fines.



PHILIPPINES

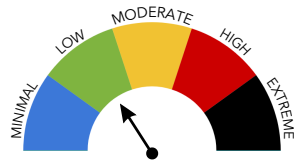
The overall threat to travelers in the Philippines is MODERATE.

Officials [issued](#) weather warnings for the Philippines over the next week as experts anticipate Typhoon Mawar. Conflict over the South China Sea also [continues](#) as the Philippines and China challenge territorial ownership. Australia will aid the Philippines and [supply](#) surveillance drones while both Australia and the U.S. consider joint patrols with the county in the South China Sea.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should stay clear of political demonstrations.
- Several areas including Mindanao and Sulu Archipelago have increased risk due to crime, terrorism, kidnapping, and civil unrest.
- Travelers should wear bug repellent, monitor their symptoms, and immediately report to a qualified medical professional if they experience fever, weakness, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, and eye, muscle, bone, or joint pain.
- We recommend practicing exceptional hygiene, including regular hand washing, and avoiding large gatherings. We suggest those considering travel to the region monitor news programs and websites to stay abreast of government health announcements.
- Terrorist and armed groups continue plotting possible kidnappings, bombings, and other attacks in the Philippines. These groups may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities. The DoS advises against travel to Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago due to increased risk of crime.

BRAZIL



The threat to travelers in Brazil is LOW.

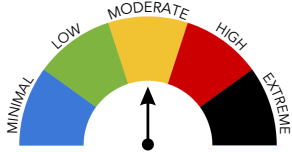
Health concerns are present in Brazil, as officials [identified](#) a suspected case of H5N1 bird flu in the Espirito Santo region. In addition, Brazilian officials [stated](#) they are remaining neutral in the Russian-Ukraine conflict, and President Lula has [criticized](#) Ukraine for its war efforts and the U.S. for its aid to Ukraine in the past. Recently President Lula [claimed](#) Ukraine was “uninterested” in peace negotiations with Russia after Ukraine and Brazil did not meet at the G7 summit.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should avoid all land border regions and informal housing developments due to increased criminal activity. There is an increased risk of violent crimes, particularly in urban areas, public transportation, hotels, and tourist areas.
- We advise travelers to avoid walking alone at night or in less populated areas, maintain a low profile, take appropriate security measures, including securing valuable items out of sight, and avoid public transportation.
- ATM scams and credit card fraud are common. Travelers should avoid using ATMs in unfamiliar or secluded areas as criminals often target these. Always use ATMs located inside secured facilities such as government buildings.
- Travelers should avoid large gatherings as public events can often turn violent.
- Travelers should observe local warnings at beaches as ocean currents are unpredictable and dangerous riptides are common.

OTHER KEY AREAS TO WATCH

MEXICO



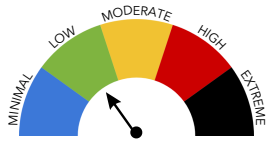
The overall threat to travelers in Mexico is MODERATE.

The Popocatepetl volcano, located outside of Mexico City, is more [active](#) and alerts were raised to Phase 3 a in recent weeks. Residents remain on edge as scientists are unable to predict whether volcanic activity will lead to a blast or simmer. Drone strikes have [increased](#) in Guerrero state, an area of value to drug traffickers, displacing hundreds of residents from their homes. The strikes are attributed to an alliance between two drug trafficking gangs in the area, [Familia Michoacan](#) and [Jalisco Cartel New Generation](#).

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should stay informed of local weather conditions and take necessary precautions, such as wearing masks when in areas close to Popocatepetl volcano.
- Concentric recommends travelers remain in tourist zones, stay in well-lighted pedestrian areas, and avoid downtown areas after dark. Popular travel destinations in Mexico experience moderate to high crime rates exacerbated by organized gang violence. Though visitors are most likely to encounter petty crime, kidnapping for ransom and virtual kidnappings also pose serious risks to foreign travelers.
- Travelers should monitor local news for updates on crime, road closures, demonstrations, and other travel disruptions. Mexican law prohibits foreigners from participating in political activity, and violations may result in detention.
- Travelers should purchase medication in consultation with a medical professional and only from reputable establishments. Counterfeit medication is common and may prove to be ineffective, the wrong strength, or contain dangerous ingredients.
- Travelers should request bottled drinks as tap water is not potable in many areas. Tourists should heed surf advisories as strong currents and rogue waves may be extremely dangerous, even to those on the beach. Air pollution is a severe problem in major cities, and earthquakes are routine.

LONDON



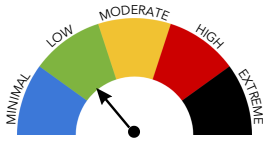
The overall threat to travelers in London is **LOW**.

Campaigns for May 2024 mayoral [elections](#) are taking place. While inflation in London has seen a small decline in recent weeks it is [expected](#) to remain high for the coming years. The price of food and other [goods remains](#) largely unchanged and continues to add strain on citizens. Teachers, doctors, and rail, maritime and transportation workers are [planning strikes](#) in June over pay and other accommodations.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to stay away from these areas.
- Though demonstrations are expected and common, they rarely result in violence. Protests often occur around the city's bridges, Trafalgar Square, and the House of Parliament.
- Petty crimes, such as pickpocketing, purse snatching, and vehicle break-ins, are on the rise. Credit card "skimming" is common and travelers are advised to exercise caution when using ATMs, looking for any signs of tampering, and withdraw money from bank tellers if possible.
- Cybercrime attacks, especially data theft from high-profile targets such as large companies, continue to increase. Phishing is the most common form of cyber attack against travelers. We recommend travelers avoid public Wi-Fi and use VPNs in London.

PARIS



The overall threat to travelers in Paris is **LOW**.

Preparations for the 2024 Olympics are [underway](#), however, many are upset over [initiatives](#) to displace homeless residents and asylum seekers from Paris in an effort to free up accommodation for Olympic attendees. Some residents also plan to use the Olympics as a platform to voice political [opposition](#) to President Macron for increasing the retirement age from 62 years old to 64 years old. Celebrities and Global Citizen are [hosting](#) a free concert at Eiffel Tower on June 22 to urge leaders to provide previously promised financing for climate issues. The concert will coincide with the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact in Paris.

OPERATIONAL RISKS

- Travelers should monitor local media for updates regarding planned or spontaneous demonstrations and modify travel routes to stay away from these areas. Demonstrations and strikes occur frequently and protests can be unpredictable and have a history of travel delays and turning violent. Protesters may exhibit reckless disregard for public safety and cause property damage in populated tourist areas.
- Travelers should keep their belongings close to them in crowded areas and stay particularly vigilant around tourist attractions and cash points. Violent crime significantly increased in recent years, especially in the northern suburbs. Crimes targeting foreigners typically include pickpocketing, break-ins, and other forms of theft.
- Terrorism remains a threat and terrorists may attack with little to no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, government facilities, and other public areas.
- Cybercrime is common in France, and hackers often compromise Wi-Fi hotspots to intercept communications or gain control of the connecting device. The U.S. government advises travelers to use secure Wi-Fi connections to access sensitive private information.

Intelligence-led security is essential for effectively managing risk in a complex threat environment. Concentric's background in national security enables us to leverage cutting edge intelligence methodologies to improve our clients' ability to detect threats and manage risk. Concentric's in-house research and analysis team has top-tier analytical capabilities and a robust technical toolkit.

Active Monitoring

Periodic Threat Reporting

Online Sentiment & Exposure Analysis

Deep and Dark Web Report

Red Team Analysis Report

Travel Risk Assessments

Security and Risk Audits

Event Risk Assessments

Risk Intelligence

For a more detailed travel risk assessment of these locations, or any other area of interest, please contact Concentric

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